



District's African-American History Month Concludes with Financial Management

Mary Daugherty welcomes some 30 District attendees to this year's final African-American History Month event on Feb. 27.

Story and photos by Donna Shepard

Throughout the month of February the District celebrated African-American History Month. Activities organized by Mary Daugherty, the District's Black Employee Program Manager, included a potluck luncheon, an historical web-based quiz, exhibits, and a financial management seminar conducted by Marjorie E. Grace of Grace Financial Services, Oakland, Calif.

Grace, a financial and investment planner with more than 19 years of experience manages apx. 18 million dollars in assets for some 600 clients. A registered investment advisor and stockbroker, Grace discussed the virtues and pitfalls of various investment options, encouraging everyone to become proactively involved in charting the course for a bright financial future.

This year's National African American History Month theme was "Creating and Defining the African American Community: Family, Church, Politics, and Culture."

The web-based quiz challenged District employees to match the names of 25 historical figures of African-American descent with their photos. Successfully identifying all 25 were Adrian Humphrey and Laura Clark. District Engineer, Lt. Col. Timothy O'Rourke and Marsha Gilbert took second place, identifying 20 of the 25.



Adrian Humphrey

Sharing her knowledge of African American history, Adrian Humphrey highlighted many of the contributions Afro-Americans have made throughout history that many of us take for granted in our daily lives. For instance, did you know that:

Did you know that ...

- Alexander Miles invented the elevator.
- Garret A. Morgan invented traffic signals.
- Elbert R. Robinson invented the electric trolley.
- Charles Brooks invented the street sweeper.
- John Love invented the pencil sharpener.
- William Purvis invented the fountain pen.
- Lee Burridge invented the type-writing machine.
- W.A. Lovette invented the advanced printing press.
- William Barry invented the postmarking and canceling machine.
- Joseph Smith invented the lawn sprinkler.
- John Burr invented the lawn mower.
- Frederick Jones invented the air conditioner.
- Alice Parker invented the heating furnace.
- John Standard invented the refrigerator.

These are but a few of the substantial contributions African Americans have made to improve the quality of life for all Americans.

Following the seminar, Maj. Don Johantges presented Marjorie Grace with a District Certificate of Appreciation and attendees were invited to view exhibits that several District employees prepared for display.



*Maj. Don Johantges
presents Marjorie Grace
with a certificate of
appreciation following
the District's final
African American
History event on Feb. 27.*